

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-014-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC66676

PROJECT NAME: Little Hills Cathodic Protection Station

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado
T. 1 S., R. 97 W.,
Sec. 11, SE¼NW¼.

APPLICANT: ExxonMobil Production Company

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: A sundry notice has been submitted for a cathodic protection station for the Little Hills pipeline.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the construction, installation, and operation of a cathodic protection station (CPS) in connection with the Little Hills pipeline and will be an amendment to Exxon's existing right-of-way COC66676. The CPS is located across from the driveway to the Burke Ranch. The CPS will be 190 feet south/east of the pipeline and will have an anode lead junction box, PVC cap to cover the anode deep well bed. A powerline connection will be 336 feet coming from an existing powerline. There will be no clearing of the ground for this installation. The PVC cap will be placed in a 24" by 24" concrete pad to hold the casing in place with a guard installed to protect it from livestock, etc. The operating and construction will be performed using a drilling rig and should take about 1½ days. It will be the only vehicle on the site—all other vehicles will be parked at the fence. An access road will not have to be built in order to access the site.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative there would not be any additional impacts.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: An application has been received for a cathodic protection station for the Little Hills pipeline.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: “To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values.”

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES /
MITIGATION MEASURES:**

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special air quality designations or non-attainment areas in the vicinity of the proposed action.

Impact of Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in very minor, short term, local impacts to air quality during the construction phase. These impacts would be possible dust being blown into the air and exhaust from the vehicle.

Impact of No Action Alternative: Impacts to air quality are not expected as a result of permitting the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed Cathodic Protection Station and associated power line route has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (O'Brien 2004) with one previously recorded site relocated in and near the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Provided the recommended mitigation measures are adhered to there should be no new impacts to cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to Cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The proposed power supply cable to the CPS location shall be routed away from the known site boundaries as shown on the map supplied to the Realty Specialist.

2. A monitor of approximately 100 feet of power cable trench directly in front of the rock shelter, as shown on the map supplied to the Realty Specialist shall be required.

3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- A timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: There are no known noxious weeds at the site of the proposed action. Some cheatgrass is present onsite.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will have little or no impact on noxious weeds and invasive species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: None

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The proposed project area is encompassed by a small, predominantly privately owned livestock pasture that is heavily grazed throughout the year. Publicly-administered lands in the project vicinity are largely comprised of steep shale slopes that support sparse and low-growing vegetation. Besides the fact that this project would likely be installed in January or February, well before the migratory bird nesting season, site attributes are not conducive to nesting by any migratory bird.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There is no reasonable likelihood that any migratory bird nesting activity would be impacted by installation of this CPS station.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No action would be authorized that would have potential to influence migratory birds.

Mitigation: None.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: *Affected Environment:* *Affected Environment:* There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in Piceance Creek, which is tributary to the White River. The State has classified this segment in 15, the mainstem of Piceance Creek from the Emily Oldland diversion dam to the confluence with the White River. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. This reach's designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 1b, and Agriculture. For this reach, minimum standards for four parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0 and Fecal Coliform = 2000/100ml and 630/100 ml E. coli. In addition standards for inorganic and metals have also been listed and can be found in the table of stream classifications and water quality standards.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Impacts to water quality from the proposed action would be similar to other surface disturbing activities. Some of the impacts would be compaction of soils with reduced water quality due to erosion of sediment and salt. These impacts would be short term.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from not allowing the proposed action.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will have no effect on the watershed's ability to meet these water quality standards

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The project lies about 250 feet from Piceance Creek, the basin's largest perennial stream. This small tract of BLM has been integrated into a small, intensively grazed; predominantly privately-owned livestock pasture that's approximately 1000 feet of BLM-administered channel is largely devoid of riparian vegetation. The nearest downstream BLM-administered riparian community is separated from this site by approximately 4 miles.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This project would involve only the most minor of temporary surface disturbances that would occur during the winter months, including: powerpole installation, overland truck access to drill a shallow well, and installation

of a 2'x2' concrete pad. Because of the minor amount of surface disturbance on gentle gradients and the degraded nature of the site, this work would have virtually no influence on the susceptibility of terrestrial soils to erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to Piceance Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No action would be authorized that would have potential to influence riparian conditions or channel function.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The small and isolated BLM-administered reach of Piceance Creek adjacent to the project area is largely non-functional and retains little riparian character. In a larger sense, the majority of Piceance Creek (which is primarily privately controlled) only marginally satisfies the public land health standard for riparian systems (i.e. nonfunctional or functionally at-risk channels) due mainly to irrigation management beyond the control of BLM. Downstream BLM-administered channel reaches would not be influenced by installation of the proposed project and, as such, neither the proposed or no-action alternatives would have any bearing on the present or long-term status of Piceance Creek from the public land health perspective.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive species, the Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants or animals. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Proposed action is in soil mapping #41-Havre loam, on 0 to 4 percent slopes. This deep, well drained soil is on flood plains and low stream terraces. It formed in calcareous alluvium. Areas are long and narrow and are 40 to 400 acres. The native vegetation is mainly low shrubs and grasses. Elevation is 5,800 to 7,200 feet. The average annual precipitation is 14 to 17 inches, the average annual air temperature is 42 to 45 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 80 to 105 days. Typically, the surface layer is light brownish gray loam 21 inches thick. The upper 19 inches of the underlying material is stratified, light gray

loam and silty clay loam, and the lower part to a depth of 60 inches or more is stratified loam and sandy loam. In some areas the surface layer is clay loam of fine sandy loam.

Permeability of the Havre soil is moderate. Available water capacity is high. Effective rooting depth is 60 inches or more. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is slight. Small areas of this soil are subject to brief periods of flash flooding late in the spring and in summer. This map unit is in capability subclasses IIIe, irrigated, and IIIc, nonirrigated. It is in Foothill Swale range site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Due to the duration of the construction and the minimal amount of disturbance, the only reasonable impact to soils would be a possible increase in erosion and sedimentation, from overland flows due to soil compaction. This impact would be short term as long as the proposed action is followed.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Installation of 2 powerpoles and the drilling of a shallow well within existing right-of-way disturbance and immediately adjacent to a compressor facility would have no measurable influence on upland soils and would not interfere with continued meeting of the standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The site of the proposed action is a continuously disturbed toe slope. This tract of BLM has been fenced in with Burke private lands since before 1900. It is constantly disturbed because Burkes keep and feed their bulls and saddle horses there. The ecological site is Foothill swale. The predominate vegetation is kochia.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not have any significant impact on the existing vegetation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The site of the proposed action does not meet the Standard due to factors previously discussed. Authorization of this action will result in no change in this situation.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project lies about 250 feet from Piceance Creek, the basin's largest perennial stream. This small tract of BLM has been integrated into a small, intensively grazed, predominantly privately-owned livestock pasture. Within this pasture is approximately 1000 feet of BLM-administered channel which is largely devoid of riparian vegetation. Due to instream irrigation structures, this channel is relatively stable and is occupied intermittently by native populations of flannelmouth suckers and speckled dace. The nearest downstream BLM-administered aquatic habitat is separated from this site by approximately 4 miles.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Excessive delivery of sediments into aquatic habitats can destabilize bank and channel features and degrade water quality parameters important during spawning. This project would involve only the most minor of temporary surface disturbances that would occur during the winter months, including: powerpole installation, overland truck access to drill a shallow well, and installation of a 2'x2' concrete pad. Because of the minor amount of surface disturbance on gentle gradients and the degraded nature of the site, this work would have virtually no influence on the susceptibility of terrestrial soils to erosion and subsequent sediment delivery to Piceance Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No action would be authorized that would have potential to influence aquatic habitat conditions.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The small and isolated BLM-administered reach of Piceance Creek adjacent to the project area is largely non-functional and retains little riparian character. In a larger sense, the majority of Piceance Creek (which is primarily privately controlled) only marginally satisfies the public land health standard for aquatic systems (i.e. nonfunctional or functionally at-risk channels) due mainly to irrigation management beyond the control of BLM. Downstream BLM-administered channel reaches would not be influenced by installation of the proposed project and, as such, neither the proposed or no-action alternatives would have any bearing on the present or long-term status of Piceance Creek from the public land health perspective.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area is encompassed by mule deer severe winter range that serves its most important function during the late winter and early spring months (i.e., February through early May). However, because this specific location is immediately adjacent to the Piceance Creek highway and is incorporated into a privately-owned and intensively used livestock holding pasture during the winter and spring months, the project site has little functional value as deer habitat.

There are no raptor nests situated in surrounding rock outcrops, but the Piceance Creek valley supports considerable wintering raptor use (primarily rough-legged, red-tailed hawks and prairie

falcon). Because of the relatively barren condition of ground cover in this livestock pasture, the project site serves no substantive forage or cover function for other nongame birds or mammals.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Wintering raptors make consistent use of powerpoles in the Piceance Creek valley for perching. Inappropriate powerpole and conductor design commonly results in raptor electrocution. BLM would require that any powerpole associated with this project be designed consistent with the most current raptor protection guidelines using conductor separation as developed by the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (e.g., Avian Powerline Interaction Committee, 1996. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines: the state of the art in 1996. Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation. Washington, D.C.)

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No action would be authorized that would have potential to influence resident wildlife or associated habitat.

Mitigation: BLM would require that any powerpole associated with this project be designed consistent with the most current raptor protection guidelines using conductor separation as developed by the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (e.g., Avian Powerline Interaction Committee, 1996. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines: the state of the art in 1996. Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation. Washington, D.C.)

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): On a landscape scale, the general project area meets the public land health standard for animal communities. Installation of this CPS station would have no conceivable influence on the condition or function of these lands for terrestrial wildlife communities, and as such, the project would not interfere with continued meeting of the land health standard.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology		X	
Rangeland Management	X		
Realty Authorizations		X	

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Recreation		X	
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed action lies in an area where two formations come together. The anode well is in an area that is likely in the Uinta Formation, which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation meaning it is a known producer of scientifically important fossil resources. The power supply line appears to be located mostly in the Quaternary alluvium of Piceance Creek. Quaternary alluviums are not considered to be fossil bearing in this portion of Colorado.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Burial of the power supply cable in the Quaternary alluviums is not expected to impact fossil resources. Construction of the anode bed, rectifier station and perhaps a short section of the power supply cable may impact rocks of the Uinta formation and therefore potentially impact fossil resources. However, except where blading work is involved it will be extremely difficult to identify and/or evaluate any fossil resources that might be impacted in the anode bed well or the rectifier pole. Small fossils would likely be completely destroyed.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to Fossil Resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to level the anode bed pad a monitor of such excavations shall be required.

2. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within an area that has been classified as VRM III. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is located adjacent to RBC #5 at the base of a ridge with sparse vegetation. A casual observer traveling on RBC #5 would be able to view the above ground facilities for only a brief period of time, since the roadway adjacent to the proposed action is an *S* curve at this point, and on the opposite side of the road are ranch houses that would probably attract the attention of anyone traveling on the highway. By painting any above ground facilities Desert Brown, the level of change to the characteristic landscape would be low and the objectives of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no environmental consequences.

Mitigation: Paint all above ground (except wooden power poles) facilities Desert Brown (10YR 6/3) in color.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

O'Brien, Patrick K.

2004 Exxon-Mobil Corporation: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Proposed Little Hills CPS Project, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-014-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below:

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1. The proposed power supply cable to the CPS location shall be routed away from the known site boundaries as shown on the map supplied to the Realty Specialist.

2. A monitor of approximately 100 feet of power cable trench directly in front of the rock shelter, as shown on the map supplied to the Realty Specialist shall be required.

3. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- A timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines

for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

4. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

5. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project

6. BLM would require that any powerpole associated with this project be designed consistent with the most current raptor protection guidelines using conductor separation as developed by the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (e.g., Avian Powerline Interaction Committee, 1996. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines: the state of the art in 1996. Edison Electric Institute/Raptor Research Foundation. Washington, D.C.)

7. If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to level the anode bed pad a monitor of such excavations shall be required.

8. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

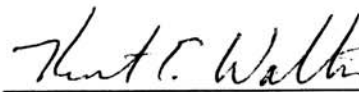
9. Paint all above ground (except wooden power poles) facilities Desert Brown (10YR 6/3) in color.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff, every five years.

NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

12/17/04

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the Proposed Action.

Location of Proposed Action CO-110-2005-014-EA

